

through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. Many officials expressed legitimate concerns about the impact that might have on their budgets, so I worked with the city as well as with the U.S. and the Illinois EPA to see if those loans could be forgiven.

Today I am so proud to announce that I have received assurances that up to \$4 million in Federal funding will be forgiven. That will happen as soon as the city completes its application and receives formal approval.

Mr. Speaker, all communities face challenges. What separates the great ones from the rest is whether communities can come together and solve these challenges. We still have work to do to protect children from lead exposure, but Galesburg is a great city, and I am proud that we are taking this important step together.

#### VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Cedar Bluff, Alabama, November 16, 2015:

Sylvia Duffy, 71 years old.

Clara Edwards, 68.

Pamela O'Shel, 48.

Tennessee Colony, Texas, November 15, 2015:

Carl Johnson, 77 years old.

Thomas Kamp, 46.

Nathan Kamp, 23.

Austin Kamp, 21.

Kade Johnson, 6.

Clarksburg, West Virginia, July 26, 2013:

Freddy Donald Swiger, 70 years old.

Fred Swiger, 47.

Todd Russell Amos, 29.

Christopher A. Hart, 26.

Springfield, Missouri, November 15, 2014:

Lewis Green, 44 years old.

Trevor Fantroy, 43.

Danielle Keyes, 29.

Christopher Freeman, 24.

Shreveport, Louisiana, May 5, 2016:

Tyrone Coley, 37 years old.

Randy Brown, 36.

Robert Baukman, 30.

Joey Caldwell, 29.

Richard Baker, 29.

Platte, South Dakota, September 17, 2015:

Nicole Westerhuis, 41 years old.

#### RESTORE FUNDING TO THE OVERSEAS WAR ACCOUNT

(Mr. GALLEGRO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEGRO. Mr. Speaker, the annual defense bill before the House today removes \$18 billion from the overseas war account to fund activities that are not related to war. It is unfortunate that the Republican majority, which claims to be fiscally responsible, is raiding OCO in order to blow past bipartisan spending agreements. This budget gimmick would require an \$18

billion supplemental next April—only halfway through the fiscal year—to restore overseas funding for America's troops.

This is no way to govern the Pentagon, and it is doing a disservice to our men and women in uniform by pushing for this. Defense Secretary Ash Carter has said that removing overseas funding during wartime is "objectionable on the face of it."

It is my hope and the hope of many others on the committee that funding for the overseas account will be restored on the House floor before the bill is voted on.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the defense bill until these funds are restored.

#### HEAD START'S 51ST ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today is the 51st anniversary of Head Start.

Fifty-one years ago, in 1965, President Lyndon Johnson announced the groundbreaking program. In that year, a shy little girl and the daughter of Mexican immigrants enrolled in Head Start, and it changed her life. That little girl was me.

In this Chamber, when we fiercely debate funding education, we are sometimes too removed from the reality of the everyday struggles that are facing America's children and just how wide that opportunity gap is.

Even though I stand before you here as a Congresswoman, I also stand before you as a child of Head Start. Universal, early childhood education is the best investment we can make to close that education gap. I know this because I am living proof of it. Head Start was not merely something that helped me; it has helped 32 million children and their parents to prepare for school. It has prepared them for life.

#### PROTECTING AND DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF LGBT EMPLOYEES IN THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today and this week we will debate the national defense authorization. This is part of our most fundamental obligation as Members of Congress, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

However, there is a provision that is inserted into this bill that doesn't protect and defend—it discriminates. It is a provision in this bill that would effectively stop an executive order that says that Federal contractors cannot discriminate against employees be-

cause they happen to be LGBT. I want to say this again. In the defense authorization, House Republicans have inserted a provision to empower and enable the discrimination of LGBT employees. That is not protecting and defending. That is discrimination. That is divisive. It is disgusting.

Our job is to protect and defend the American people and not inject the defense budget with ideologies that are based on protecting a political base, Mr. Speaker. It is a disservice to our troops, and it is a disservice to our national security to inject such poisonous language into a defense budget that is meant to protect and defend the constitutional rights of the American people.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, which is the largest caucus in the Congress, I rise in advance of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the National Volunteer Fire Council on May 20 so as to recognize its hard work and dedication to protecting our communities. The brave men and women who volunteer their time are professionals who put their lives on the line every day.

Founded in 1976, the NVFC came together in Chicago to provide a unified voice for volunteer firefighters across our Nation. With this guiding vision, the NVFC has grown its ranks to a board comprised of 49 State fire service associations and with a membership of nearly 20,000 individual and department members. Today, volunteers have a strong voice at the table when it comes to critical fire and emergency service issues thanks to the NVFC.

The organization has been there to meet the challenges that volunteers face and to address critical issues every day. From groundbreaking programs and innovative resources to legislative and regulatory advocacy, the NVFC continues to serve the volunteer in meaningful and significant ways. I look forward to continuing to work with them to advocate for our volunteers.

#### COMMEMORATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 EASTER RISING

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 716) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, a seminal moment in Ireland's journey to independence, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.